(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will be premature at this stage to give the details.

(c) and (d) Major portion of the existing three national waterways is already open for transportation.

Increase in road transport freights

†1996. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road transport freights have been on the increase in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the annual increase rate during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for such increase in the freights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Under Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the power to fix the freight rate vests with the State Governments and not with the Central Government. In practice these rates are governed by market forces. The information in this regard is not complied by this Ministry.

Completion of highway corridor

1997. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highway project of North-South, East-West corridor comprising 7300 kms is moving at a very slow pace; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.